(c) and (d) No such proposal has been received from the State Government.

Projects of Madhya Pradesh under Circuit Development Plan

†2920. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether several projects of Madhya Pradesh under Circuit Development Plan are pending for the approval of Central Government;

(b) if so, the latest position thereof, project-wise; and

(c) by when, these projects are likely to get approval of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritized every year in consultation with the State Governments/ UT Administrations including the State of Madhya Pradesh. The project proposals received, complete in all respects, are processed on *inter-se*-priority basis and funds are released, subject to availability under the respective head. Project proposals which are not complete as per guidelines are not taken up for consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Promotion of Rural Tourism

2921. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU. Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated/propose to formulate a policy for promoting "Rural Tourism" in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The creation of infrastructure in Rural

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

areas having potential for tourism is being supported under the existing scheme of Destination Development, while community participation and the capacity building skill upgradation in such Rural areas are being supported through GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project. The Central Assistance for infrastructure creation, which has been extended till now is enclosed as Statement-I while the Central assistance extended for capacity building etc. under UNDP project is enclosed as Statement-ll. [Refer to the Statement-I and II appended to the answer to Unstarred Question 2914 part (c)]

Promotion of Bio-Tourism

2922. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to popularise bio-tourism;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether Government have surveyed important places of Karnataka including Medikeri of Coorg district, Mysore, and other places to improve them as bio-tourism destinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Ministry of Tourism.

(c) No, Sir.

Promotion of indigenous products at ITDC duty free shops

2923. SHRI V. HANUMATHA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will insist that ITDC duty free shops carry only Indian tea, coffee and cigarettes;

(b) whether any study has been done by Government on ensuring how best to promote Indian goods and avoid foreign goods like tea, coffee and cigarettes; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that Indian goods are given a boost at the duty free shops of ITDC?